# FINANCIAL TELEPHONIC SERVICES of the State of California's Employee Assistance Program

If you have financial questions or issues, EAP can be a good place to start! You can receive a free 30-minute consultation with a Financial Consultant.

The Financial Consult is available to active State Employees, Spouses, Registered Domestic Partners, and Dependents.

## **Examples of financial issues EAP can consult on:**

- » Credit Counseling
- » Mortgage Consultation
- » Financial Crisis and Hardship
- » Debt and Budgeting Assistance
- » Specialized Tax Assistance
- » Tax Levy Resolution Consultation
- » Financial Planning For College
- » Retirement Planning

Financial consultations can last up to 30 minutes.

There is no charge for financial consultations and they DO NOT count against your other EAP counseling sessions.

# **How To Access a Financial Consultation:**

Call (866) EAP-4SOC

TDD: (800) 327-0801

Say: "Member Services" Say: "Benefit Inquires"

Request a Financial Consultation

An intake representative will assist in scheduling your telephonic financial consult. The actual telephonic consult is









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If you have financial questions or issues, the EAP Financial Consult benefit can be a great place to get started! The consult is an opportunity to speak with a financial expert for up to 30 minutes. The consultant will give you advice, guide you to resources, or help you determine next steps.

Can I get answers to my credit questions? MHN consultants can provide you with information on how to obtain a free annual copy of your credit reports from each of the major credit bureaus. MHN can help you understand your credit reports and suggest resources and services available if you wish to improve your credit, consolidate your debt or receive professional credit counseling (i.e. a referral to Consumer Credit Counseling).

**Can I get specialized tax assistance?** Consultants can answer questions on complex federal tax matters and help members find local tax resources. You can also receive advice on life events (i.e. inheritance) that have potential tax implications.

Can EAP answer mortgage questions? Consultations can provide advice and recommend a range of resources for members facing a mortgage crisis, foreclosure or refinancing. You can also receive information on where to seek a mortgage loan, special programs and first time buyer information. We can explain how mortgages work, reveal hidden costs, and help complete a risk-benefit assessment of a specific mortgage arrangement (i.e. fixed vs. variable, 15-year vs. 30-year).

**Can EAP help with tax levy resolution?** MHN provides advice and recommends resources on matters involving negotiation with tax authorities, stopping tax collections and interfacing with payroll.

### What about more specific financial issues?

Consultants can review specific financial issues and recommend possible solutions including local community resources. Consultants can also help you prepare a financial recovery budget and help strategize on how to negotiate with creditors, lenders and landlords.

Can EAP help with a plan to save for college? Members can receive advice on a range of college financial planning topics including student loan programs, student grant programs, financial savings accounts, tax implications, etc. We will work with you to determine approximately how much college will cost and help members to develop a plan to meet educational expenses.

How can EAP help with planning a budget? MHN consultants will help members create a monthly budget and develop a financial strategy. MHN will also offer suggestions on how to effectively implement approaches to changing financial behaviors. Consultants will review a multitude of financial options and will offer specific suggestions and advice on how to resolve issues or improve financial situations.

# How can EAP help with retirement planning?

Consultants can help prepare a retirement funding analysis for you that gives an overview of retirement costs and funds necessary to secure a reasonable retirement. We can also explain government programs such as Social Security and Medicare and suggest retirement strategies and options.

Financial issues can often cause personal or family stress. Please remember that counselors are also available to help you manage life's challenges.

To get started, call (866) EAP-4SOC – TDD (800) 327-0801